

Message Text

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21/20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 FPC-01 DRC-01 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 /141 W
----- 049339

R 090715Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4905

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SYDNEY 2369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, AS

SUBJ: ELECTRIC POWER BROWN-OUT IN SYDNEY

REF: SYDNEY 2357

1. ELECTRIC POWER BROWN-OUT STRIKE APPEARS TO BE EASING AS NEW SOUTH WALES LABOR COUNCIL PREPARES SCENARIO FOR EXTRACTING ELECTRICAL UNION FROM AN UNWINABLE AND POLITICALLY DAMAGING INDUSTRIAL CAMPAIGN FOR 35 HOUR WEEK. AS INDICATED IN REF TEL, THE POWER STRIKE IS BECOMING LINKED TO LIKELIHOOD OF NEW ELECTION IN NEW SOUTH WALES IN NOVEMBER. UNION HAS SUSPENDED PLANS FOR INTENSIFYING POWER SHORTAGE THUS PREVENTING BLACK OUTS. THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL BY LABOR PARTY OPPOSITION LEADER PAT HILLS TO RESUME FULL WORK AND SHIFT THE 35 HOUR WEEK CAMPAIGN TO A POLITICAL BASIS. HILLS PUBLICLY PREDICTED ASKIN WOULD CALL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER AND PROMISED THAT IF VICTORIOUS HIS LABOR PARTY GOVERNMENT WOULD GRANT 35 HOUR WEEK TO POWER WORKERS.

2. STATE LABOR COUNCIL IS ALSO SEEKING WAYS TO ENLIST
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ACTU HELP TO CONVENE MEETING OF FEDERAL ELECTRIC

UNIONS TO SEEK 35 HOUR WEEK UNDER FEDERAL ARBITRATION
COMMISSION, BYPASSING NEW SOUTH WALES STATE GOVERNMENT.

3. ON BASIS FOREGOING, IT APPEARS THAT WHILE POWER
ISSUE MAY SPARK FIREWORKS IN FEDERAL PARLIAMENT THIS
WEEK, IT IS APPARENTLY COOLING DOWN IN NEW SOUTH WALES
ITSELF. HANNAH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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